

Laguna Bluebelt Coalition

www.lagunabluebelt.com

July 15, 2008

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attn: Melissa Miller-Henson

Re: Nomination of Ray Hiemstra, to the South Coast Regional Stakeholder's Group

To MLPA Initiative Nomination Committee:

We are a Coalition of Local Organizations and Citizens from Orange County and the City of Laguna Beach which has formed to work together on Marine Protection, and specifically the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative, focused on the ocean areas in and around Laguna Beach. As you know, our Laguna Beach marine habitats are both unique and beautiful; and we highly value and enjoy our marine environs. As such, our organizations and citizens have supported the protection and management of this habitat over many years, and we have come together to continue our support and provide input to the MLPA Initiative. *With this letter, we would like to acknowledge Mr. Ray Hiemstra's active participation with our coalition and we anticipate that he will continue to provide communication to and from our coalition in the MLPA process if selected.*

Who We Are

The Laguna Beach Bluebelt Coalition meetings have been attended by citizens and members of the following organizations:

Local commercial lobster fishermen
Endangered Planet Foundation
HelpBluewater.com
Laguna Beach Citizens
Laguna Ocean Foundation
Laguna Beach City Marine Protection
Orange County Coastkeeper
OCdiving.com
South Laguna Civic Association
Surfrider Foundation
United Angler's of Southern California
Zero Trash Laguna

More information on our coalition and our meetings may be found at www.lagunabluebelt.com.

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Why Ray Hiemstra

Mr. Ray Hiemstra has devoted his career to ocean resource management. Ray has been working on the MLPA, preparing for the initiative coming to the South Coast Region, for over a year now, and has attended meetings of the Fish and Game Commission, Blue Ribbon Taskforce, Science Advisory Team and Regional Stakeholder Group. Over the last six years with Orange County Coastkeeper, Ray has been studying the South Coast marine resources and is very familiar with the resources we have and the challenges they face. He also has a good knowledge of regional marine resources (including the Channel Islands) through his work and extensive personal travel in the Southern California area.

Over the past 6 months, our coalition has been meeting regularly and Ray has been an active and constructive participant, both as a citizen and as a representative of Orange County Coastkeeper. He has offered tremendous insight and perspectives regarding the MLPA process, criteria, and marine habitat issues to our very diverse coalition. He well understands the MLPA Master Plan, its goals and objectives, and has in-depth knowledge as to how these apply to both the South Coast geographical region and locally to the Orange County area. Ray has always participated with patient and balanced guidance to our coalition; listening and providing positive and helpful input to our large group. He has provided both organizational/coordination input as well as specific habitat management ideas. Ray's strength is working in coalitions and developing sound regional policies.

Thus, we appreciate your time and effort reviewing the nominations and respectfully request that you consider Mr. Ray Hiemstra for the MLPA Regional Stakeholders Group for the South Coast.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy B. Yorke". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Judy Yorke, P.E., C.P.P.

Facilitator,

Laguna Beach Bluebelt Coalition



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July 18, 2008

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attention: Melissa Miller-Henson
Via Email: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

Re: Support for Southern California Regional Stakeholder Group Candidates

Dear Ms. Miller-Henson:

On behalf of California Coastkeeper Alliance, I am pleased to submit this letter in support of several well-qualified candidates who have been nominated to the Southern California Regional Stakeholder Group. California Coastkeeper Alliance (CCKA) advocates statewide for clean water and a healthy ocean on behalf of itself and California's 12 Waterkeeper organizations spanning the coast from the Oregon border to San Diego. The true bottom-up nature of the Waterkeeper model is unique in California; each of our 12 member groups are autonomous, locally based, individual non-profit organizations that work to protect the health of the waters within their local communities. As such, each Waterkeeper can offer a unique voice and local expertise to the Regional Stakeholder Group.

Under the MLPA framework, the Regional Stakeholder Group (RSG) is the primary entity responsible for initiating proposals for protected area networks. It is imperative that the composition of the RSG reflect that a large majority of Californians support the creation of more marine protected areas, including marine reserves, and that the oceans are a public asset, held in trust for future generations. The daily work of the Waterkeepers is focused on their local watersheds with an emphasis on community outreach and working collaboratively with various stakeholders. This expertise makes each of the four candidates listed below well-suited for the RSG. Moreover, these candidates have first hand knowledge of the marine resources in their geographic area and have a unique perspective to contribute to the creation of marine protected areas. Our top endorsements (in alphabetical order) are:

Tom Ford, Baykeeper & Executive Director, Santa Monica Baykeeper

Mr. Ford's background in ocean issues, education and work experience spans both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. Mr. Ford was educated as a biologist and marine ecologist at the University of Rhode Island and UCLA. He previously worked as a commercial shell fisherman in Rhode Island, digging clams from Narragansett Bay. He also worked as a biological observer aboard dredges and shrimp boats in Georgia and the Carolinas for the National Marine Fisheries Service and Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Since 1998, Mr. Ford has directed the Santa Monica Baykeeper Kelp Restoration Project, which was part of CCKA's Giant Kelp Restoration Project that spanned Southern California from Santa Barbara to San Diego and included the other Southern California Waterkeepers. Currently Mr. Ford is the Executive Director of the Santa Monica Baykeeper and the President of the Board of CCKA. He serves as a Vice Chair of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Governing Board and as an environmental representative on the Los Angeles Long Beach Harbor

Safety Committee. Mr. Ford's knowledge of the kelp forests off Southern California is supported by his studies and his more than 2000 hours on the ocean and over 600 dives in southern California in the past ten years.

Kate Hanley, *Director of Operations and Marine Conservation Director, San Diego Coastkeeper*

Ms. Hanley has been the lead for San Diego Coastkeeper for the last three years on projects related to protection of local Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) and overlapping marine conservation areas at La Jolla Shores. Ms. Hanley was instrumental in developing the community outreach and education portion of the La Jolla Shores Coastal Watershed Management Plan, an ASBS Protection Model developed by San Diego Coastkeeper, Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the City of San Diego. In addition to her strong background in marine biology, she possesses expertise in public outreach and education, and commitment to increasing awareness of water quality and marine conservation issues within the community. Ms. Hanley has proven to be an effective coordinator and effective at considering and representing varying points of view while fostering productive relationships. She will bring a strong, positive energy to the RSG along with extensive knowledge of the San Diego Region.

Ray Hiemstra, *Associate Director of Programs, Orange County Coastkeeper*

As the Associate Director of Programs for Orange County Coastkeeper, Mr. Hiemstra has been working to protect our coast for eight years. Through managing a variety of marine research projects in Newport Bay and Huntington Harbour and work on a restoration project on the Newport Coast, he has been directly involved in documenting marine resource conditions. Mr. Hiemstra's extensive localized knowledge of marine resources in Orange County is balanced with a regional perspective. Recognized as a go-to person in the environmental community in Orange County, he is a member of numerous stakeholder and technical advisory groups, where he is often the only environmental voice. As such, he has developed excellent communication and negotiation skills and has a record of developing innovative solutions to reach consensus with diverse stakeholders. Mr. Hiemstra is a facilitator for the Citizen Watershed Monitors of Orange County and is a regular participant in meetings of the Orange County Coastal Coalition and both the Newport Bay and Aliso Creek Watershed Stakeholder groups.

Michael Sheehy, *Marine Conservation Coordinator, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper*

As the Marine Conservation Coordinator for Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, Mr. Sheehy educates the public on marine conservation efforts and issues relating to the Santa Barbara Channel. Mr. Sheehy brings extensive regional knowledge of the Santa Barbara Channel marine ecosystem and scientific expertise in marine ecology, specifically in areas of ecology critical to ecosystem-based management and the scientific basis for marine protected areas. He holds a master's degree in Marine Ecology from the University of California, Santa Barbara and has more than eight years of experience as a Research Associate with the Marine Science Institute and as a Project Manager with the research consortium, Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans, at UCSB. Mr. Sheehy has extensive experience in communicating marine science and conservation issues to the public and he has demonstrated success in cross-sector collaboration and relationship building through consulting work for non-profit and business interests. Mr. Sheehy serves on the Board of Iemanya Oceanica, a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of sharks and rays and their habitats through education and research primarily in Southern California and Mexico.

Additionally, CCKA supports the nomination of people who represent other constituencies, including national and regional conservation groups, divers, scientists, local businesses, and sport and commercial fishermen. In particular, we support the nomination of the following candidates (in alphabetical order):

Sarah Abramson, *Heal the Bay*

Jenn Feinberg, *Natural Resources Defense Council*

Marcela Gutierrez, *WiLDCOAST*

Greg Helms, *Ocean Conservancy*

We have found these people to be constructive and willing to listen as well as represent and involve multiple constituencies. We support their candidacies because they have a wealth of experience and expertise on these issues and we think they will make a valuable contribution to a collective process of fact finding and developing MPA network recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AH', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Angela Haren
Program Director



ORANGE COUNTY
COASTKEEPER
EDUCATION / ADVOCACY / RESTORATION / ENFORCEMENT

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July 16, 2008

Attn: Melissa Miller-Henson
Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1311
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Re: Nomination of Ray Hiemstra for South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

Dear Ms. Miller-Henson,

Orange County Coastkeeper is a grassroots environmental organization with the mission to preserve, protect, and restore the marine environment and watersheds of Orange County. We are pleased to nominate Ray Hiemstra for Orange County Coastkeeper the South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group. Ray is the Associate Director-Programs for O.C.Coastkeeper and has been working with us to protect our coast for eight years. Ray obtained a BA in Geography with an emphasis in resource management in 1998, and a certificate in Environmental Studies in 2000 from Cal State Long Beach. GIS and mapping are an integral part of geography studies and he is very familiar with the operation GIS software.

Through managing a variety of marine research projects in Newport Bay and Huntington Harbour and work on a kelp restoration project on the Newport Coast Ray has been directly involved in documenting marine resource conditions. In completing these projects, he has acquired a wide knowledge of marine resource issues in Orange County. Ray's localized knowledge of marine resources is balanced with a regional perspective; the issues he has addressed with his projects are often local versions of problems that must be dealt with regionally.

Ray is involved in all of our public policy work and is often the spokesperson for O.C.Coastkeeper at public hearings and events. Recognized as a go-to person in the environmental community in Orange County, Ray is a member of numerous stakeholder and technical advisory groups, where he is often the only environmental voice and his ability to collaborate with diverse stakeholders to reach consensus is crucial to success. As such, he has developed excellent communication and negotiation skills and has a record of developing innovative solutions while sticking to his basic principles. His involvement with local organizations includes his position as Facilitator for a coalition of Orange County environmental groups known as the Citizen Watershed Monitors of Orange County and attending meetings of the Laguna Bluebelt Coalition, Orange County Coastal Coalition and both the Newport Bay and Aliso Creek Watershed Stakeholder groups. He also regularly works with groups such as

Surfrider International, Heal the Bay, other Keepers and the California Coastkeeper Alliance on regional issues.

An advantage to Ray's participation in so many groups is that he has developed an expansive personal communication network. Ray has the ability to personally reach out to a diverse set of stakeholders including divers, elected and local government officials, fishermen, and environmentalists throughout Orange County. Additionally, he can reach an even larger audience with the assistance of O.C.Coastkeeper's communication network. O.C.Coastkeeper employs a staff dedicated to getting our message out to the widest possible audience. Ray will have access to our websites, e-newsletter, and Coastkeeper magazine, and will be an advocate for the MLPA process and encourage public input through print articles in local newspapers, appearances on local radio and TV shows.

Ray is committed to participating in and completing the charge of the Regional Stakeholder Group. He is passionate about the ocean and an avid ocean sports enthusiast. He has the full support of Orange County Coastkeeper and will have all the necessary resources to fully participate in all internal and external RSG activities. Rays Contact information is:

Ray Hiemstra
Associate Director-Programs
Orange County Coastkeeper
3151 Airway Ave. Suite F-110
Costa Mesa Ca. 92648
714-850-1965 office
714-850-1592 fax
Email ray@coastkeeper.org

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Garry Brown". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Garry Brown
Executive Director
Orange County Coastkeeper